

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 700647

Details

Other names	THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST LTD, FRIENDS OF THE STEPHENSON ENGINEERING CENTRE, STEPHENSON ENGINEERING CENTRE, STEPHENSON WORKSHOPS, STEPHENSONS WORKSHOPS
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	1988-10-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	care of The Common Room of the North Neville Hall Westgate Road Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1SE
Phone	01912509717
Email	rstrust@robertstephensontrust.com
Website	robertstephensontrust.com

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROMOTE, MAINTAIN, IMPROVE AND ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS, AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE ROLE OF ROBERT STEPHENSON, HIS COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER INTERESTS, AND THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE IN THAT DEVELOPMENT. 11) TO PRESERVE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE IN THE COUNTY OF TYNE AND WEAR AND OF THE NATION AT LARGE, WHTEVER OF THE ENGLISH HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL CONSTRUCTIONAL HERITAGE AS MAY EXIST IN AND AROUND THE CITY AFORESAID, PARTICULARLY THAT CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS IN THE FORM OF BUILDINGS (INCLUDING ANY BUILDING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 290(1) OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1971) OF PARTICULAR BEAUTY OR HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL OR CONSTRUCTIONAL INTEREST.

Activities: 1. To promote, improve and advance public education and knowledge of the development of railways associated with Robert Stephenson, his Companies, Partnerships, and other interests in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. 2. To preserve for Newcastle upon Tyne and the nation, historical and architectural

buildings and associated artefacts concerned with the development of railways.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- Northumberland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-07	£1,078	£668	-	-
2024-04-07	£2,860	£2,119	-	-
2023-04-07	£2,119	£5,625	-	-
2022-04-07	£6,476	£2,304	-	-
2021-04-07	£1,281	£665	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Donald Leslie Heath	Chair	2018-03-13
COLIN WHEELER		
Dr Malcolm C Reed CBE		2020-03-24
John Michael Brown		2017-04-07
Philip Martin Benham MBE		2018-04-26
Robert Langham		2022-04-26
VICTORIA HAWORTH		

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 700647

Accounts

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2025

Registered Charity No. 700647

PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Robert Stephenson Trust

Index - Reports and Financial

Statements

Year ended 7th April 2025

Contents	Pages
1 Chairman's Report	4
2 Report of the Trustees	5-9
3 Report of the Independent Examiner	10
4 Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period	11
5 Notes to the Financial Statements	12-13
6 Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7th April 2025	14

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Chairman's Report to the 2025 Annual General Meeting

2024-25 was a quiet year for the Trust following 2023's bi-centenary celebrations for the Stephenson Locomotive Works in Newcastle. However, consideration was given to the opportunities presented by the forthcoming Rail 200 celebrations planned for 2025, commemorating the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in September 1825. Although by no means the world's first ever railway, the planned use of steam traction for what would be a public railway has always given this event a special significance with worldwide recognition.

It was decided that the Trust's primary contribution to Rail 200 would be publication of a book on the life of Robert Stephenson which former trustee Hugh Fenwick kindly offered to write. Under the title *Robert Stephenson FRS: From Willington Quay to Westminster Abbey*, the book was prepared during the year with publication timed for later in 2025 to correspond with the bi-centenary celebrations. The trustees are most grateful to Hugh for producing such a carefully researched and well received work on Robert Stephenson's life. It takes its place as an important and valuable record, of interest not just for today's readers but also for future reference.

The Trust was shocked and greatly saddened by the unexpected death of secretary and trustee Philip Wiltshire in September 2024. Philip had been a stalwart supporter of the Trust and member of the Board for some years, and his loss has been sorely felt. Coming on top of the earlier retirement of two long-standing trustees, this sad event added to the challenges faced in terms of the people and resources needed to carry on the work of the Trust. We are currently running under strength in terms of trustees and urgently need more to join us, especially as we look towards the bicentenary of 'Rocket's' triumph at the Rainhill Trials in 1829 – very much an achievement of Robert Stephenson.

On a more positive note, the Board were delighted to welcome children's author Clare Rand (who writes under the name Elaina Moon) onto the Board. Elaina has brought a much-needed new perspective to the Trust's activities while her books bring to life historical events, including the works of the Stephensons, in a way that is relevant and understandable to modern children. Elaina has also taken on responsibility for editing and producing the Trust's membership magazine 'Rocket', as well as representing the Trust at events. We were also grateful for the active support of our Patron, the Rt Hon the Baroness Quin who has helped to raise our profile to wider audiences in the North East of England.

I am pleased to report that the Trust's financial position remains stable and healthy with no concerns of note. As this is my last report before standing down at the Annual General Meeting, I want to express a special thanks for the support of my fellow trustees and members over the years that I have been chairman. I much regret that my health circumstances have prevented me from completing my term of office, but I wish the Trust well, particularly in the next few years leading up to 2029 and what is already being called 'Rocket 200'.

D L Heath OBE C Eng
03.12.25

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Registered Charity Number 700647

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 7th April 2025

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document:

The purpose of the Robert Stephenson Trust is:

(1) to promote, maintain, improve and advance public education and knowledge of the development of railways, and in particular of the role of Robert Stephenson, his Companies, Partnerships and other interests, and the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in that development.

(2) to preserve for the benefit of the residents of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in the County of Tyne and Wear and the nation at large, whatever of the English historical, architectural and constructional heritage as may exist in and around the City aforesaid, particularly that concerned with the development of railways in the form of buildings (including any building as defined in Section 290(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971) of particular beauty or historical or constructional interest.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts:

During the 2024-5 financial year the activities of the Trust were severely hampered by an unfilled Board vacancy from 2023-4 and then by the sudden death of its Committee Secretary Philip Wiltshire in September 2024. The necessity to reallocate his responsibilities placed further pressures on the diminished Board, and because no volunteers came forward to replace the previous editor of *Rocket*, the Trust's six-monthly Newsletter, it did not possible to issue any editions during the financial year. A new editor was subsequently appointed, and publication has now been resumed.

In the interim, the Trust's website was refreshed, while social media, its other means of electronic outreach, has continued to be a useful presence for the Robert Stephenson Trust as an organisation, and in sharing and educating people on the work and achievements of Robert Stephenson. Notably, following a suggestion at the 2024 AGM, an 'Everything Robert Stephenson' group was set up to be a slightly more informal, sharing space than the Trust's official Facebook page. To date this has 135 members with frequent postings on Robert Stephenson related subjects, and at the time of this report it has perhaps been understandably quite busy with Stockton & Darlington Railway-focused posts linking in with Robert Stephenson & Co having built 'Locomotion'. Overall, use of Facebook has been a positive move for the Trust, bringing the activity of the Trust and subsequently the works and achievements of Robert Stephenson to a wider audience. Whilst the trust did have a presence on X, formerly known as Twitter, reduced lack of engagement with that site by users overall saw the quality of related posts drop remarkably, and the platform became unpleasant to use. Together with the reduced engagement with X users the decision was taken to stop posting on X, although the Robert Stephenson Trust's profile remains dormant on there so

that nothing has been deleted and the quality posts can still be found by any users. Trustees and members also continued to publish articles and to present lectures that accorded with the purposes of the charity.

The Trust has continued to engage constructively in consultations about development proposals for the former Robert Stephenson & Co works, and early in the financial year was represented at the launch of the refurbished Pattern Shop at Forth Street. At the developer's request the Trust provided display material for the event which illustrated the history of this listed site. In another acknowledgement of its role in supporting and promoting the heritage significance of the Stephensons' contribution to Newcastle and its region, the Trust was pleased to make a grant during the year to the Literary & Philosophical Association of Newcastle towards the restoration of a portrait of George Stephenson in its ownership. Robert Stephenson was himself a member of the 'Lit & Phil', and the cleaning of his father's portrait has made evident a depiction of an early Robert Stephenson & Co locomotive in the background of the painting.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit:

Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trust activities have all been carried out by the trustees without any charge for the activities described in the previous section of this report and with no personal benefits to trustees.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole:

The Trust has continued to respond to requests from the public both in the UK and abroad for information relating to Robert Stephenson, and, as noted above, to provide constructive input to the proposals for redevelopment of part of the Robert Stephenson & Co works.

While circumstances during 2024-5 have curtailed the Trust's ability to contribute more proactively to promoting public knowledge and awareness of the Stephensons' achievements and their importance in the local, national, and international development of railways, as well as in the industrial growth of north-east England, that remains Trustees' focus. It is indicated in a small way by the grant to the Lit & Phil towards the restoration of the Stephenson portrait, but some of the results of other ongoing efforts will become apparent in next year's report.

Following the pandemic, Trustees have continued to conduct most of their meetings online because of the geographical spread of the Board's membership. While this has made it easier to conduct the Trust's business, reference has been made to the sad loss of another active Trustee during the financial year. The reduction in the number of Trustees has become a significant constraint, and has limited the Trust's scope for planning for the Rail 200 programme and the extent to which it can maintain the momentum developed during the Robert Stephenson & Co works bicentenary in delivering its objectives.

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period:

At the end of the period the Trust held cash funds of £60,165

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The Trustees prepare annual forecasts of the cash requirements of the Charity and update these forecasts periodically during the year with the intention of ensuring the Charity's free reserves are maintained at a prudent level. Expenditure on the Charity's direct activities and on management and administration is only sanctioned if the Trustees are satisfied that sufficient funds are available to match or exceed expenditure. The reserve is held at a level which Trustees consider to be sufficient to sustain two years of routine expenditure if no further income was forthcoming.

Amount of reserves held:

£15,000.

Details of funds materially in deficit:

No funds were in deficit at the year end.

Structure, governance and management***Description of the charity's trusts:***

The Robert Stephenson Trust.

Type of governing document:

Constitution.

How is the charity constituted?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees:

- (1) At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;
- (2) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
- (3) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (4) below;

(4) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with the constitution as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

(5) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (1) and (2) above. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
P M Benham	Membership Secretary	[Also Acting Committee Secretary w.e.f 2 September 2024]	
J M Brown	Archivist		
V Haworth			
D L Heath	Chairman		
R Langham			
C Rand [pen name Elaina Moon]		Co-opted 10 Jan 2025	
M C Reed	Treasurer		
C J Wheeler			
F P Wiltshire	Committee Secretary	8 April-2 September 2024	

Corporate trustees – names of the trustees at the date the report was approved:

Trustee name		
All as above, except:		
F P Wiltshire	<i>Deceased 2 Sep 2024</i>	Committee Secretary

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity:

None – not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others:

Nil – questions not applicable.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers:

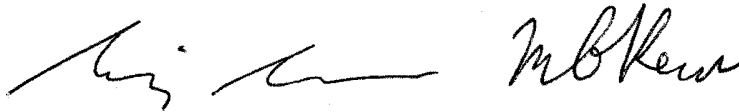
Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	R L Coad FCA	Orchard Croft, Westerns Lane, Markington, Harrogate HG3 3PB

DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Philip Benham MBE

Malcolm Reed CBE

Position

Membership Secretary and
Acting Committee Secretary

Treasurer

Date

10 December 2025

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The Robert Stephenson Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 7th April 2025 which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trust and the Examiner

The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those of the records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the treasurer concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether "a true and fair view" is given by the accounts 24-5 and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

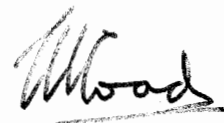
Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R L Coad FCA
18 December 2025

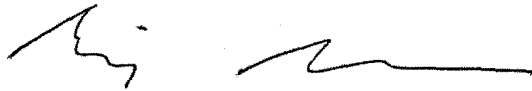
The Robert Stephenson Trust

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period to 7th April 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	2	456	456
Cash at Bank		<u>60165</u>	<u>59755</u>
Total		<u>60621</u>	<u>60211</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Net Current Assets	4	<u>60421</u>	<u>60011</u>
Net Assets		<u>60421</u>	<u>60011</u>
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	5	45421	45011
Designated Fund	5	<u>15000</u>	<u>15000</u>
		<u>60421</u>	<u>60011</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by the following Trustees:

P M Benham *Acting Committee Secretary*



M C Reed *Treasurer*



The Robert Stephenson Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 7th April 2025

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP2005).

Funds

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted purposes intended by the donor.

Incoming resources

Donations and general sales are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate are received. Grants are accounted for when the Charity is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reasonable quantifiable.

Resources expended

All expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

2 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	456	456

3 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	200	200

4 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Funds			Total
	General	Restricted	Designated	
	£	£	£	£
Net current assets	45421	-	15000	60421

Movements in Funds

	Opening funds	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	45011	410	-	45421
Designated funds				
Contingency fund	15000	-	-	15000
Total funds	60011	410		60421

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7th April 2025

	2024/25		2023/24
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations	715		1142
Sales of books and memorabilia	20		1321
Bank interest	<u>343</u>		<u>397</u>
Total		1078	2860
Expenditure			
Stationery, postage and sundry	-		215
Publicity and printing	-		614
Independent examiner	200		200
Website	-		14
Storage	106		168
Bank charges	62		68
Exhibition materials	-		68
Room hire	-		162
Insurance	-		96
Grant for charitable purposes	300		-
Total		<u>668</u>	<u>1605</u>
Net of receipts		<u>410</u>	<u>1255</u>

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 700647

Accounts

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2024

Registered Charity No. 700647

PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Index - Reports and Financial
Statements

Year ended 7th April 2024

Contents	Pages
1 Chairman's Report	4
2 Report of the Trustees	5-9
3 Report of the Independent Examiner	10
4 Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period	11
5 Notes to the Financial Statements	12-13
6 Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7 th April 2024	13

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Chairman's Report to the 2024 Annual General Meeting

The year 2023/24 contained the actual bicentenary of the opening of the Stephenson Locomotive Works in Newcastle 200 years ago. The Trust Board had high hopes of being able to run a series of events to commemorate this globally important bicentenary but, in actuality, there was very little that was achieved to mark such an important anniversary. Two train naming ceremonies and a lecture at the Richmond (North Yorkshire) Walking & Book Festival were the only successes.

The first train naming ceremony was held at Darlington Station on the actual bicentenary itself viz June 23rd, 2023. Trans Pennine trains kindly provided one of their electric units and the name Diligence was suitably inscribed and the naming ceremony was carried out by our Patron, Baroness Quin. Lumo had intended to have a corresponding ceremony at Newcastle Central Station at the end of that week but, in the event, due to rolling stock problems, it was only possible to perform a shadow naming ceremony with the actual unit to be named emerging from their maintenance facilities later in the month. The publicity for both of these events was, disappointingly, extremely subdued. A former Trustee, Hugh Fenwick, delivered a well attended lecture in September at the Richmond Walking & Book Festival. This was well received but did not, actually, result in any new members.

The bank arrangements referred to in last year's report have now settled down and are working to the Treasurer's satisfaction. With so little action taking place, the accounts display an acceptable surplus which, hopefully, will enable us to undertake some more positive publicity in the coming calendar year.

During the course of the year Michael Taylor stood down as a Trustee and subsequently resigned as the Editor of the Trust's magazine, Rocket. I regret to report that, so far, we have been unable to find anybody to succeed him. This is now a priority as Rocket is our main publicity vehicle.

We are hoping to be involved in Rail 200 during the calendar year 2025 and have approached Network Rail and LNER to see if they would be interested in arranging some local events on the Newcastle to Berwick line where all the major structures were designed by Robert Stephenson and were constructed under his overall supervision.

The Trust Board is also actively seeking to recruit further individuals to act as Trustees as it clearly needs some younger blood to joining Rob Langham who continues to do an excellent job in keeping the social media group informed of the various anniversaries that are occurring.

D L Heath
27.11.2024

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Registered Charity Number 700647

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 7th April 2024

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document:

The purpose of the Robert Stephenson Trust is:

(1) to promote, maintain, improve and advance public education and knowledge of the development of railways, and in particular of the role of Robert Stephenson, his Companies, Partnerships and other interests, and the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in that development.

(2) to preserve for the benefit of the residents of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in the County of Tyne and Wear and the nation at large, whatever of the English historical, architectural and constructional heritage as may exist in and around the City aforesaid, particularly that concerned with the development of railways in the form of buildings (including any building as defined in Section 290(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971) of particular beauty or historical or constructional interest.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts:

During the 2023-4 financial year the Trust has continued to issue its regular six-monthly Newsletter, and published articles and presented lectures that accord with the purposes of the charity.

In the previous financial year considerable effort was put into preparing for the 2023 celebration of the bicentenary of the founding of the world's first railway locomotive factory, Robert Stephenson & Co, Newcastle. This included a series of lectures in the spring of 2023. A further lecture was given at the 2023 AGM, which was repeated shortly afterwards at an event in Richmond. The publicity and interpretation boards about Robert Stephenson & Co and the achievements of the Stephensons, father and son, were made available to this and other events, and were loaned to the Tanfield Railway during the summer of 2023.

At the request of Chi Onwurah, MP for Newcastle Central, briefing material was supplied to her for a Westminster Hall parliamentary debate on 5 July 2023 which she had secured and led to mark the bicentenary of the Robert Stephenson & Co locomotive works. The Trust's Patron, Baroness Quin, and chairman Donald Heath attended an event hosted by TransPennine Express at Darlington on 23 June 2023 at which an electric train was named *Diligence*, the name of one of the early Robert Stephenson locomotives supplied to the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Another train operating company, Lumo, which is headquartered in Newcastle on part of the former RS works site, also added a plaque to one

of its trains to mark the bicentenary.

The Trust has continued to engage constructively in consultations about development proposals for the former Robert Stephenson & Co works, and shortly after the end of the financial year was represented at the launch of the refurbished Pattern Shop at Forth Street.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit:

Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trust activities have all been carried out by the trustees without any charge for the activities described in the previous section of this report and with no personal benefits to trustees.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole:

The Trust has continued to respond to requests from the public both in the UK and abroad for information relating to Robert Stephenson, and, as noted above, to provide constructive input to the proposals for redevelopment of part of the Robert Stephenson & Co works.

The events mounted or supported by the Trust during the bicentenary year, together with its publications, especially *The world's first locomotive factory*, have contributed significantly to public knowledge and awareness of the Stephensons' achievements and their importance in the local, national, and international development of railways, as well as in the industrial growth of north-east England.

Following the pandemic, Trustees have continued to conduct most of their meetings online because of the geographical spread of the Board's membership. While this has made it easier to conduct the Trust's business, the Chairman's report has referred to the loss of another active Trustee during the financial year. The reduction in the number of Trustees has become a significant constraint, and has limited the Trust's scope for participation in the planned Rail 200 programme and the extent to which it can maintain the momentum developed during the bicentenary in delivering its objectives.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period:

At the end of the period the Trust held cash funds of £59,755.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The Trustees prepare annual forecasts of the cash requirements of the Charity and update these forecasts periodically during the year with the intention of ensuring the Charity's free

reserves are maintained at a prudent level. Expenditure on the Charity's direct activities and on management and administration is only sanctioned if the Trustees are satisfied that sufficient funds are available to match or exceed expenditure. The reserve is held at a level which Trustees consider to be sufficient to sustain two years of routine expenditure if no further income was forthcoming.

Amount of reserves held:

£15,000.

Details of funds materially in deficit:

No funds were in deficit at the year end.

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts:

The Robert Stephenson Trust.

Type of governing document:

Constitution.

How is the charity constituted?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees:

- (1) At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;
- (2) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
- (3) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (4) below;
- (4) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with the constitution as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;
- (5) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (1) and (2) above. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	P M Benham	Membership Secretary		
2	J M Brown	Archivist		
4	V Haworth			
5	D L Heath	Chairman		
7	R Langham			
8	M C Reed	Treasurer		
9	J M Taylor			
10	C J Wheeler			
11	F P Wiltshire	Committee Secretary		

Corporate trustees – names of the trustees at the date the report was approved:

Trustee name		
All as above, except:		
J M Taylor	<i>Retired 16 Sep 2023</i>	
F P Wiltshire	<i>Deceased Sep 2024</i>	Committee Secretary

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity:

None – not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others:

Nil – questions not applicable.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers:

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Auditor	R L Coad FCA	Orchard Croft, Westerns Lane, Markington, Harrogate HG3 3PB

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<i>Signature(s)</i>		
<i>Full name(s)</i>	Donald Lesley Heath OBE	Malcolm Christopher Reed CBE
<i>Position</i>	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 25 November 2024

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The Robert Stephenson Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 7th April 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 13.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trust and the Examiner

The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those of the records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the treasurer concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether "a true and fair view" is given by the accounts and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R L Coad FCA
28th November 2024

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period to 7th April 2024

	Notes	2023/4 £	2022/3 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	2	456	456
Cash at Bank		59755	58500
		-----	-----
		69211	62468
Current Liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	3	200	200
		-----	-----
Net Current Assets		60011	58756
		-----	-----
Net Assets		60011	58756
		-----	-----
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	5	45011	43756
Designated Fund	5	15000	15000
		-----	-----
		60011	58576
		-----	-----

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

D L Heath – Chairman]	
]	Trustees
Dr M C Reed – Treasurer]	

The Robert Stephenson Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 7th April 2024**

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP2005).

Funds

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted purposes intended by the donor.

Incoming resources

Donations and general sales are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate are received. Grants are accounted for when the Charity is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reasonable quantifiable.

Resources expended

All expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

2 Debtors

	2023/4	2022/3
	£	£
Prepayments	456	456
	----	----

3 Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year

	2023/4	2022/3
	£	£
Accruals	200	200
	----	----

4 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Funds			Total
	General	Restricted	Designated	£
	£	£	£	£
Net current assets	45011	-	15000	60011
	-----	-----	-----	-----

5 Movements in Funds

	Opening Funds £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Total Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	43756	1255	-	45011
Designated Funds				
Contingency Fund	15000	-	-	15000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	58756	1255	-	60011
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7th April 2024

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Income		
Donations	1142	841
Sales of books and memorabilia	1321	778
Grant	-	400
Bank Goodwill Receipt	-	100
Bank interest	397	-
	-----	-----
	2860	2119
	-----	-----
Expenditure		
Stationery, postage and sundry	215	269
Publicity and printing	614	1477
Independent Examiner	200	200
Website	14	72
Storage	168	75
Bank charges	68	90
Exhibition materials	68	2213
Book printing	-	1099
Room hire	162	130
Insurance	96	-
	-----	-----
	1605	5625
	-----	-----
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	1255	(3506)
	-----	-----

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 700647

Accounts

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2023

Registered Charity No. 700647

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Index - Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2023

Contents	Pages
1 Chairman's Report	3
2 Report of the Trustees	4-8
3 Report of the Independent Examiner	9
4 Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period	10
5 Notes to the Financial Statements	11-12
6 Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7 th April 2023	13

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 2023 AGM

2023 marks the bicentenary of the foundation of Robert Stephenson & Co, the first steam locomotive building factory in the world. Most of the past year was taken up with preparing for the start of this event which the Trust was able to mark with a series of lectures held in the Common Room of the North during the first three months of the calendar year. These lectures were given by a wide range of people and enjoyed good support from members of the public as well as from Trust members.

The 2022/2023 activities started with the Trust supporting the Hetton Colliery Railway's Bicentenary last autumn and this was followed by the publication of the book *The World's First Locomotive Factory*.

Like many other charities, the Trust has been having problems with the service provided by its bank and a start was made in establishing an account with another provider who is willing to provide banking services free of charge and without the hassle that the previous bank had been causing. Although the new account was not established by the end of the financial year, very good progress had been made and it has subsequently been opened shortly after the end of that year.

Having enjoyed a very good relationship over a large number of years with the Northern Mining Institute, I am pleased to report that a successful follow-on relationship has been established with its successor in building terms, the Common Room of the North. I am hoping that we will be able to continue to establish a positive relationship with the Mining Institute in its reduced form.

Our newest Trustee – Mr Rob Langham – is an expert on the use of social media and I am extremely pleased to report that he has established a significant following reporting events and happenings as well as proposals for the future. This is a medium that is going to become ever more important as time progresses.

During the course of the year the Baroness Quin kindly agreed to become a Patron, thus replacing Lord Beecham who stood down. I am hoping that we can expand the Patronage and approaches have been made to two very important local individuals to see if they would take on these responsibilities.

Michael Taylor continues with his excellent work as Editor of the Trust's magazine, *Rocket*, and Mike Brown put in many hours continuing to sort the papers that we had to remove from the Mining Institute building when it was transformed into the Common Room of the North. I would like to take the opportunity to thank both of those individuals for their tremendous contributions to the activities of the Trust as well as all of the other Trustees for their support.

Finally, it is with considerable regret that I record the retirement from the Trust Board of the Vice Chairman, Mr Hugh Fenwick, who stood down at the end of the year. Hugh had made a tremendous contribution to the Trust during his time as a Board member and he will be sadly missed.

D L Heath
21.8.23

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Registered Charity Number 700647

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 7th April 2023

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document:

The purpose of the Robert Stephenson Trust is:

(1) to promote, maintain, improve and advance public education and knowledge of the development of railways, and in particular of the role of Robert Stephenson, his Companies, Partnerships and other interests, and the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in that development.

(2) to preserve for the benefit of the residents of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in the County of Tyne and Wear and the nation at large, whatever of the English historical, architectural and constructional heritage as may exist in and around the City aforesaid, particularly that concerned with the development of railways in the form of buildings (including any building as defined in Section 290(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971) of particular beauty or historical or constructional interest.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts:

The Trust has issued its regular six-monthly Newsletter and a special edition, published articles and presented lectures that accord with the purposes of the charity.

During 2022 and 2023 considerable effort was put into preparing for the 2023 celebration of the bicentenary of the founding of the world's first railway locomotive factory, Robert Stephenson & Co, Newcastle.

The Trust has continued to engage constructively in consultations about development proposals for the former Robert Stephenson & Co works.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit:

Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trust activities have all been carried out by the trustees without any charge for the activities described in the previous section of this report and with no personal benefits to trustees.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole:

In common with many charitable organisations, the Trust's activities were adversely affected by coronavirus restrictions from early in 2020. This was compounded for the Trust by the closure of the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Newcastle during its refurbishment and conversion to become The Common Room of The North. This required most of the Trust's physical assets, documents and library initially to be put into temporary storage, with subsequent disposal of many due to the loss of storage facility at The Common Room. Although pandemic restrictions have now ended, Trustees have continued to conduct most of their meetings online because of the geographical spread of the Board's membership.

Despite these changes, the Trust has continued to respond to requests from the public both in the UK and abroad for information relating to Robert Stephenson, and to provide constructive input to the proposals for redevelopment of part of the Robert Stephenson & Co works.

Additionally, much effort in the year under review was concentrated on the significant bicentenaries from 2022 onwards relating to the Stephensons, father and son. This included participation in events commemorating the opening of the Hetton Colliery Railway in 1822, and then in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the formation of the Robert Stephenson & Co. locomotive building firm in 1823. The latter was marked by the Trust's publication in September 2022 of *The World's first locomotive building factory*, a concise history of the firm and its products, and then during the first quarter of 2023 by a series of free public lectures at the Common Room on topics relating to Robert Stephenson and the context of his and his father's achievements.

Both the book and the lectures were extremely well-received and enjoyed considerable media coverage, so contributing significantly to public knowledge and awareness of the Stephensons' achievements and their importance in the local, national, and international development of railways, as well as in the industrial growth of north-east England.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period:

At the end of the period the Trust held cash funds of £58,545.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The Trustees prepare annual forecasts of the cash requirements of the Charity and update

these forecasts periodically during the year with the intention of ensuring the Charity's free reserves are maintained at a prudent level. Expenditure on the Charity's direct activities and on management and administration is only sanctioned if the Trustees are satisfied that sufficient funds are available to match or exceed expenditure. The reserve is held at a level which Trustees consider to be sufficient to sustain two years of routine expenditure if no further income was forthcoming.

Amount of reserves held:

£15,000.

Details of funds materially in deficit:

No funds were in deficit at the year end.

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts:

The Robert Stephenson Trust.

Type of governing document:

Constitution.

How is the charity constituted?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees:

- (1) At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;
- (2) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
- (3) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (4) below;
- (4) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with the constitution as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;
- (5) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the

provisions of sub-clauses (1) and (2) above. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	M P Benham	Membership Secretary		
2	J M Brown	Archivist		
3	T H Fenwick	Vice Chairman	8 Apr 2022-31 Mar 2023	
4	V Haworth			
5	D L Heath	Chairman		
6	J A Jeffrey	Company Secretary	8 Apr 2022-18 Jun 2022	
7	R Langham		26 Apr 2022-7 Apr 2023	
8	M C Reed	Treasurer		
9	J M Taylor			
10	C J Wheeler			
11	F P Wiltshire	Committee Secretary		

Corporate trustees – names of the trustees at the date the report was approved:

Trustee name		
All as above, except:		
T H Fenwick	<i>Retired 31 Mar 2023</i>	Vice Chairman
J A Jeffrey	<i>Retired 18 Jun 2022</i>	Company Secretary

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity:

None – not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others:

Nil – questions not applicable.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers:

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Auditor	R L Coad FCA	Low Pasture, Baldersby Garth, Baldersby, Thirsk North Yorkshire YO7 4PD

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<i>Signature(s)</i>	[SIGNED]	[SIGNED]
<i>Full name(s)</i>	Donald Lesley Heath OBE	Malcolm Christopher Reed CBE
<i>Position</i>	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 16 August 2023

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The Robert Stephenson Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 7th April 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 13

Respective Responsibilities of the Trust and the Examiner

The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those of the records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the treasurer concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether "a true and fair view" is given by the accounts and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R L Coad FCA

18th August 2023

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period to 7th April 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	2	456	452
Cash at Bank		58500	62016
		-----	-----
		58956	62468
Current Liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	3	200	206
		-----	-----
Net Current Assets		58756	62262
		-----	-----
Net Assets		58756	62262
		-----	-----
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	5	43756	47262
Designated Fund	5	15000	15000
		-----	-----
		58756	62262
		-----	-----

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

D L Heath – Chairman	[Signed]]	
]	Trustees
Dr M C Reed – Treasurer	[Signed]]	

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 7th April 2023

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP2005).

Funds

Restricted funds may only be expended only on those restricted purposes intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which are spent on the Charity's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Donations and general sales are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate are received. Grants are accounted for when the Charity is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reasonable quantifiable.

Resources expended

All expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

2 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments	456	452
	-----	-----

3 Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	200	206
	-----	-----

4 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	General £	Funds Restricted £	Designated £	Total £
Net current assets	43756	-	15000	58756
	-----	-----	-----	-----

5 Movements in Funds

	Opening Funds £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Total Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	47262	-	(3506)	43756
Designated Funds				
Contingency Fund	15000	-	-	15000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	62262	-	(3506)	58756
	-----	-----	-----	-----

The Robert Stephenson Trust

**Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 7th April 2023**

	2022/23		2021/22
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations	841		952
Sales of books and memorabilia	778		42
Grant	400		3000
Bank Goodwill Receipt	100		-
Asset Sale	-		2482
	-----		-----
		2119	6476

Expenditure			
Stationery, postage and sundry	269		341
Publicity and printing	1477		570
Independent Examiner	200		200
Website	72		72
Storage	75		1089
Bank Charges	90		32
Exhibition Materials	2213		-
Book Printing	1099		-
Room Hire	130		-
	-----		-----
		5625	2304
		-----	-----
Net of Receipts/(Payments)		(3506)	4172
		-----	-----

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 700647

Accounts

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2022

Registered Charity No. 700647

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Index – Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended 7th April 2022

Contents	Pages
1 Chairman’s Report	2
2 Report of the Trustees	3-6
3 Report of the Independent Examiner	7
4 Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period	8
5 Notes to the Financial Statements	9-10
6 Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7 th April 2022	11

The Robert Stephenson Trust

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The year 2021/22 has been an eventful one for the Robert Stephenson Trust. The most important action was the change from a limited company to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and this has provided the opportunity to confirm the membership of the Trust. Looking forward, a considerable amount of effort has been put towards the planning of activities to celebrate the bicentenary of the foundation of the world's first locomotive building works on South Street, Newcastle. Although there is still much to do, a number of actions have already been set in hand for celebrations during the first six months of 2023.

The Trust was very fortunate in receiving a grant towards the bicentenary celebrations from the City of Newcastle and some of this has been expended on display boards for use at exhibitions. The boards are of a "pop up" variety which makes them extremely handy for travelling to various locations.

Over the years the Trust has acquired a large number of artefacts many of which were stored in the basement of the Mining Institute. With the reformation of the latter into the Common Room of the North, these items had to be disposed of as the Trust no longer had anywhere to store them free of charge. In particular was a significant collection of Victorian furniture which had been associated with the South Street works in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This collection was a donation, and was shown as an asset at its insurance value in the Trust's previous accounts; however, its disposal at auction, with the donors' consent, resulted in a net realisation substantially below the insurance valuation. Although the Trust was reluctant to lose these items, their disposal made a useful addition to the Trust's cash flow during the year.

The other activities of note were the scanning of the large collection of Trust papers thus enabling those items that have no intrinsic value in themselves to be disposed of whilst keeping a digital record of everything that the Trust had acquired.

Several of the Trustees devoted a considerable amount of time to the preparation of articles and papers for publication. In this context I must particularly mention Michael Taylor who has continued to produce the Trust's journal Rocket and Hugh Fenwick who has drafted a history of the Robert Stephenson & Co. Locomotive works to be published in the autumn in preparation for the 2023 bicentenary.

After the year closed we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Rob Langham to the Trust Board but were disappointed to lose two other Trustees in 2021/22, David Crockit, who had been associated with the Trust for many years but felt the time was right for him to resign because of increasing age and Andrew McClean for personal reasons.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the Trustees for their dedication and hard work over the past 12 months and to all members for their continuing support. We look forward to the opportunity provided next year by the 2023 bicentenary to further the Trust's aims of promoting awareness of the achievements of Robert Stephenson, his companies, partnerships and other interests.

D L Heath, Chairman
20.5.2022

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Registered Charity Number 700647

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 7th April 2022

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

The purpose of the Robert Stephenson Trust is:

(1) to promote, maintain, improve and advance public education and knowledge of the development of railways, and in particular of the role of Robert Stephenson, his Companies, Partnerships and other interests, and the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in that development.

(2) to preserve for the benefit of the residents of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in the County of Tyne and Wear and the nation at large, whatever of the English historical, architectural and constructional heritage as may exist in and around the City aforesaid, particularly that concerned with the development of railways in the form of buildings (including any building as defined in Section 290(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971) of particular beauty or historical or constructional interest.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

The Trust has issued a six monthly Newsletter, published articles and presented lectures that accord with the purposes of the charity.

During 2021 and 2022 considerable effort has gone into preparing for the 2023 celebration of the bicentenary of the founding of the world's first railway locomotive factory, Robert Stephenson & Co, Newcastle.

The Trust has commented on the planning application for altering the Pattern Shop, a Listed building that was part of the works.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity

Commission on public benefit

It is confirmed the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trust activities have all been carried out by the trustees without any charge for the activities described in the previous section of this report and with no personal benefits to trustees.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

In common with many charitable organisations, the Trust's achievements over the past two years have been adversely affected by coronavirus restrictions. This has been compounded for the Trust by the closure of the North of England Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers, Newcastle during its refurbishment and conversion to become The Common Room of the North. This required most of the Trust's physical assets, documents and library initially to be put into temporary storage, with subsequent disposal of many due to the loss of storage facility at The Common Room.

Despite these difficulties the Trust has continued to respond to requests from the public both in the UK and abroad for information relating to Robert Stephenson, and to provide constructive input to the planning application for the change of use of the Listed "Pattern Shop" that was part of the Robert Stephenson & Co works.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

At the end of the period the Trust held net current assets of £62,262.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

The Trustees prepare annual forecasts of the cash requirements of the Charity and update these forecasts periodically during the year with the intention of ensuring the Charity's free reserves are maintained at a prudent level. Expenditure on the Charity's direct activities and on management and administration is only sanctioned if the Trustees are satisfied there will be a sufficient level of income to match or exceed expenditure.

Amount of reserves held

£15,000

Details of fund materially in deficit

No funds were in deficit at the year end.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts

The Robert Stephenson Trust.

Type of governing document

Constitution.

How is the charity constituted?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees

- (1) At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;
- (2) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
- (3) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (4) below;
- (4) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with the constitution as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;
- (5) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (1) and (2) above. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
P M Benham	Membership Secretary	
J M Brown	Archivist	
D Crockit		8 Apr 2021-3 Mar 2022
T H Fenwick	Vice Chairman	
V Haworth		
D L Heath	Chairman	
J A Jeffrey	Company Secretary	
A McLean		8 Apr-4 Nov 2021
M C Reed	Treasurer	
J M Taylor		
C J Wheeler		
F P Wiltshire	Committee Secretary	

Corporate trustees – names of the trustees at the date the report was approved

Trustee name		
As above, except:		
A McLean	<i>Retired 4 November 2021</i>	
D Crockit	<i>Retired 3 March 2022</i>	
and with addition of:		
R Langham	<i>Appointed 26 April 2022</i>	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

None – not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Nil – not applicable.

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Auditor	R L Coad FCA	Low Pasture, Baldersby Garth, Baldersby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4PD

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Donald L Heath OBE, Chairman

Date 18.6.22



T. Hugh Fenwick, Vice Chairman

Date 18.6.2022

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The Robert Stephenson Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 7th April 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trust and the Examiner

The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those of the records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the treasurer concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether "a true and fair view" is given by the accounts and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R L Coad FCA



30th June 2022

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the Period to 7th April 2022

	Notes	£
Current Assets		
Debtors	2	452
Cash at Bank		62016

		62468
 Current Liabilities		
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	3	206



Net Current Assets	4	62262

Net Assets	4	62262

Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	5	47262
Designated Fund	5	15000

		62262

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr M C Reed – Treasurer	]	
]	
		}	Trustees
D L Heath – Chairman	]	
]	

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 7th April 2022

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP2005)

Funds

Restricted funds may only be expended only on those restricted purposes intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which are spent on the Charity's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Donations and general sales are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate are received. Grants are accounted for when the Charity is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reasonable quantifiable.

Resources expended

All expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

2 Debtors

	£
Prepayments	452

3 Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year

	£
Accruals	206

4 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Funds			
	General	Restricted	Designated	Total
	£	£	£	£
Net current assets	47262	-	15000	62262
	-----	-----	-----	-----

5 Movements in Funds

	Opening Funds £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Total Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	43090	4172	-	47262
Designated Funds				
Contingency Fund	15000	-	-	15000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	58090	4172	-	62262
	-----	-----	-----	-----

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 7th April 2022

	2021/22		2020/21 ^a
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations		952	786
Sales of books and memorabilia		42	495
Grant		3000	-
Asset sale		<u>2842</u>	<u>-</u>
		6476	1281
Expenditure			
Stationery, postage and sundry	341		137
Publicity and printing	570		328
Independent Examiner	200		200
Website	72		-
Storage	1089		-
Bank Charges	<u>32</u>		-
		<u>2304</u>	<u>665</u>
Surplus		4172	616

Note: ^a The figures for 2020/21 are for illustrative purposes only, as they are for the Limited Company final financial period to 7th April 2021

THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 700647

Accounts

The Robert Stephenson Trust Limited

Income and Expenditure Account
For the period ended 7th April 2021

	2021	2020	
	£	1 Year	
	£	£	
Income			
Donations		786	771
Bank Interest		495	592
Sales of books and memorabilia			-
Grant		-	3364
		-----	-----
		1281	4760
		-----	-----
Expenditure			
Stationery, postage and sundry		137	191
Publicity and printing		328	716
Audit	200		200
Travel	-		20
		-----	-----
		665	1127
		-----	-----
		616	3633
		-----	-----

The Robert Stephenson Trust Limited

Income and Expenditure Account
For the period ended 7th April 2021

	2021	2020	
	£	1 Year	
	£	£	
Income			
Donations		786	771
Bank Interest		495	592
Sales of books and memorabilia			-
Grant	-	3364	33
	-----	-----	
	1281	4760	

Expenditure			
Stationery, postage and sundry		137	191
Publicity and printing		328	716
Audit	200		200
Travel	-		20
	-----	-----	
		665	1127
	-----	-----	
	616	3633	
	-----	-----	

